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Reply Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Group Art Unit 1652

**NOV 22 2004**

Attorney Docket: 021123-0273989

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Confirmation Number: 8596

Mockel *et al.*

Application No.: 09/725,178

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: November 29, 2000

Examiner: R.G. Hutson

Title: Novel Nucleotide Sequences Encoding the gpm Gene

November 22, 2004

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

O.K. to enter  
R. Hutson

Sir:

This is in response to an official [final] action, dated October 20, 2004, wherein the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the following amendments and remarks.